

I call on you to hold an official public hearing in my state.

Before the disastrous 2003 decision to weaken media ownership rules (which a federal court has now overturned), you held only one official public hearing. Further, FCC officials met behind closed doors 71 times with major broadcasters – but only five times with public interest groups. And to justify your actions, you used deceptive, industry-sponsored research data.

The will of Big Media had been heeded at the expense of American citizens and democracy itself. This has to end. Before you rewrite the ownership rules, I demand an official public FCC hearing in my state, impartial and verifiable research, and transparent debates.

It is time to put the needs of democracy – a diverse, skeptical, independent and competitive media system – ahead of profit-hungry media giants.

I do not want to lose our democracy to the kind of media censorship brought on by huge media corporations pushing only their slant politically, and calling it news. We, as citizens of a democracy deserve real news, comprised of facts, equal time given to diverse views, and by organizations that take the time to verify information, and all of this without the endless spin. Thank you for the forum to express my opinion, in fact, my demand.